



Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804
Phone 406-542-5500

August 6, 2020

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed you will find for your review the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Montana State Parks (a division of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks; FWP) proposal to acquire fee-title acquisition to an approximately 0.9-acre property (parcel) located immediately south of Fort Owen State Park (SP), which is located 1-mile northwest of the Town of Stevensville in Ravalli County. The parcel, currently owned by MGY Ranch, Inc., would be acquired and added to FWP's existing 1.0-acre Fort Owen SP, in hopes of later developing a parking area for the SP. FWP would also discharge (abandon) a small portion of its public roadway easement immediately east of the current park boundary. The proposed partial discharge would better protect the adjacent landowner's privacy and better delineate the park boundaries. The remainder of the roadway easement would stay intact and would lead the public to a potential new parking area for the SP.

The EA may also be obtained by:

- mail from Region 2 FWP, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula 59804;
- phoning 406-542-5540;
- emailing shrose@mt.gov;
- viewing FWP's Internet website <http://fwp.mt.gov> ("News," then "Recent Public Notices"); or
- viewing Montana State Parks website <http://stateparks.mt.gov/> ("Public Comment & Notices").

Comments may be made online on the EA's webpages or may be directed by mail or email to the addresses above. Comments must be received by FWP no later than September 4, 2020.

As part of the decision-making process under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), I expect to issue the Decision Notice for this EA very soon after the end of the comment period. The Montana State Parks and Recreation Board has the final decision-making authority for FWP's state park acquisitions, and tentatively the Board would be asked to render its decision on this proposal at its regularly scheduled September 17, 2020 meeting. (See State Parks webpage <http://stateparks.mt.gov/>, for further information on Board meetings.)

Sincerely,

Randy Arnold
Regional Supervisor

RA/sr